

Asia Watch by David Hammer

Soviets seek ethnic card in Pacific

Moscow's ethnologists are working on how to use the aborigines and Pacific islanders against Australia and the United States.

The most recent issue of the Soviet magazine *Social Sciences* reports on the results of a recent "15th Scientific Conference on Australia and Oceania Studies" held at the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow. Under such rubrics as the "Rebirth of Traditional Cultures in Oceania," the conference signaled Soviet intentions to use the ethnic card against Western economic and military capabilities in the Pacific.

Though increasingly adept in this field, the Soviets do not have to rely only on their own assets. They have at their disposal an entire array of capabilities run by Western anthropologists, minority rights activists, and church networks, backed up by high-powered law firms, the whole mess operating as a fifth column against Western strategic interests.

As *EIR* has pointed out, communism has little or nothing to do with the Russia of today, now in the grip of the Russian Orthodox Church-led imperial drive to make Moscow the Third and Final Rome. Where Karl Marx used to denounce "the idiocy of rural life," the Soviets now wax eloquent over "the struggle of the aborigines for land and human rights." In their feature on the aborigines in *Soviet Ethnography* (Vol. 1, 1985), Moscow concluded that:

1) "The struggle of the aborigines for land rights is a struggle against the multi-national mining monopolies and part of the world struggle against imperialism."

2) "Most important deposits of useful minerals are located in northern Australia where aborigines only recently passed the stage of primitive

society. Strong religious feeling binds them with the land and their struggle is concentrated on preservation of holy places."

3) "Since the adoption of the Act of 1976, the consciousness and degree of organization have achieved a much higher level and promise much for the future," though "the Australian ruling circles very much want to introduce bourgeois ideology into the aborigines."

4) "In the Act of 1976 the betrayal [of the aborigines] was covered up with such demagogic slogans as: 'free-hold,' 'preservation of holy places,' 'veto of aborigines over mining rights,' 'mining rights in the national interest,' etc. Such demagogery is an old, tested method of Australian legislation concerning aborigines."

Clearly, the aborigines, as all men, are endowed with human rights, rights best met by their integration into growing, developing nations. The Soviets' crocodile tears are like those shed by their friends in the Qaddafi-funded, old-Nazi staffed Society of Endangered Peoples, determined to destroy nations.

Beyond Australia and New Zealand, the Soviets laud the "Rebirth of Traditional Cultures" in the Pacific islands as well. Through Cuba, they are aiding Vanuatu's (the former New Hebrides) anti-nuclear, anti-Western offensive under the "independence" banner. In New Caledonia, they are pushing the National Socialist Front for the Liberation of the Kanaks. While they charge the Australian government with injecting "bourgeois ideology" into the aborigines, they argue

that the Kanaks have been "deprived of the blessings of civilization" by New Caledonia. *Izvestia* commentator A. Bovin ends his laudatory May 25 column on the Kanaks: "France will inevitably have to give away what will be taken away."

Soviet helpers in the area are centered around the London-based Survival International and include Cultural Survival (Harvard), the Minority Rights Group (London and New York), the Focus on Micronesia Coalition of the U.S. National Council of Churches, the U.S. Pacific Network (Washington, D.C.), and Greenpeace. Cultural Survival has just sent Rutgers University anthropologist Carmel Schrie to Australia to continue their project on "the effects of uranium mining on the aborigines." Greenpeace, under cover of "peace" activities, is active in espionage via their fleet, which sails throughout the area.

These outfits work with certain prestigious law firms who have taken up various gripes which locals in Oceania have, or can be induced to have. Walden Bello of the U.S. Pacific Network, a key figure in the destabilization of the Philippines, says he works closely with Cadwalader, Wickersham and Taft, which is defending the "landowners" in the Marshall Islands who have already occupied and twice shut down America's most important missile range, on Kwajalein Atoll.

The most recent Cadwalader client is a 17-year-old girl, suing to stop U.S. military facilities in Tinian. Jonathan Weisgall, formerly of the blueblood firm of Covington and Burling, is representing the Bikini islanders; Richard Garry is handling islanders on Rongelap; and David Anderson of the Wilmer, Cutler, and Pickering, D.C. firm is concentrating handling Eniwetok.